

A  
DISCOURSE  
ON  
Antichrist,  
AND THE  
APOCALYPS

SHEWING

That the Number of the Beast  $\propto \xi s$   
ought not to be Translated 666 but 42 only,  
That Christians have raigned a 1000 years,  
And That Mahomet is the grand  
ANTICHRIST.

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By *Richard Franklin.*

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220

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# THE PREFACE TO THE READER.

**T**HE cheif Design of this Discourse is, to demonstrate that the last and most Beloved Apostle of Christ, St. *John*; was a most true, a most clear and Rhetorical Prophet: he Prophecied of the *three grand Monarchies of the World*.

First, The *Roman*.

Secondly, The *Christian*.

Thirdly, The *Turkish Empires*.

Of *The Roman*, he Prophecies that after 42 Emperours had reigned, *Babylon* should fall, and Christians should rise. *Julius Caesar* was the first, and *Constantius Clorus* was the forty second and the last Pagan Emperour of *Rome*.

*Constantine M.* was the 43, he pulled down *Rome*, and set up a fifth Monarchy of *Christians* at *Constantinople*, and the *Christians* did hold the Empire and chief City of the *V World* in their hands a Thousand years. And then *Gog Magog (the Turk)* Conquered them according to St. *Johns* Prophecie.

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*To the Reader.*

For *Constantine M.* the Founder of the Christian Monarchy, began his reign at *Rome anno 310.* and at *Constantinople anno 315.* *Ottoman* the the chief Turk *anno 1300.* began his Kingdom at *Saguta*, which was but ten or fifteen years before the *Christians Millennium* was compleated. But a Kingdom is not said to be Conquered, when some small Towns and Provinces in the Frontiers are invaded and taken ; but when the King and Imperial City and Army is totally vanquished : neither could the *Tartarians* with all their Force and Numbers, overcome the Saints or ruine the *Emperour* and the *Beloved City* of *Cristendome*, *Constantinople*, till after they had reigned above a Thousand years.

And since *Gog Magog* with the *Saracens*, &c. have been the greatest destroyers of *Christendome*, and since their false Prophet so much opposes and exalts himself above *Christ*, I therefore pronounce *Mabomet* to be the grand *Antichrist*.

Farewel.

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# DISCOURSE

## ON

# ANTICHRIST

### AND THE

## APOCALYPS, &c.

**I**N my converse with Books and Men, I have observed that the name of *Antichrist* is commonly used as an ugly *Bear-skin vizard*; that one party puts on the face of another party, to render it the more odious; and every party, right or wrong, is sure to be branded with the Nick-name of *Antichristian*, as every oppressed or conquered party Comforts themselves with the name of *Persecuted*, and *Martyrs*. *presumilive*

The Patriark of Constantinople was first called *Antichristian* by the Bishop of Rome, afterwards the Pope was proclaimed *Antichrist* by the Protestants; in the Reign of our King Charles the first, the Presbyterians called our Bishops *Antichristian*; in Cromwells time the Quakers, and other Seltarists called the rigid Presbyterians, *Antichristian*; and our Holy Universities, and our Royal City at its last Conflagration, have been reviled as Seats of the Whore of Babylon.

The Antients have also had as strange phancies of *Antichrist*, that he should be begotten by a Diabolical Incubus; and that Enoch and Elias are the two Witnesses in the Revelations, who appearing on Earth again, and Prophefying against him, should be slain by him.

The Schoolemen likewise have betrayed themselves to be but blind Hagarens, that they could not see the mystery of iniquity

ty, in the *Saracens*, and though they saw *St. Pauls Propheſie* of the falling away of the Nations from the *Roman Emperour* exactly fulfilled, yet ſtill their concluſion was, that *Antichriſt* is not yet come, the reaſon was, I ſuppoſe, either their ignorance or rather fear, becauſe their *Pope* looked and acted ſo much like *Antichriſt*, and therefore *Aquinas* and the reſt of the *School-men* are very ſparing in Writing on this point, ſome *Modern Divines* make *Antichriſt* to be an æmulatour, or Vicar of *Chriſt* or one that pretends to be for *Chriſt* in word, but in deed, is againſt him, and ſo *Antichriſt* muſt be the grand Hypocrite in the World.

Others think to ſolve all difficulties by diſtinguiſhing between the mean *Antichriſt*, and the main or grand *Antichriſt*, and this is again ſubdivided into *Antichriſt within the Church*, and *Antichriſt without the Church*; and they ſay, every ſinner is a petty *Antichriſt* in a large ſence, but ſtrictly and properly *Antichriſt* is (as *Aquinas* defines him) *caput omnium malorum in perfectione malitiæ*, the wickedest rogue, the greateſt oppoſer of *Chriſt* in the World.

For my part I believe, that the term *Antichriſt* ought not to be ſtretched to ſo large a ſence, as to comprehend all ſorts of Enemies or all kinds of ſinners againſt *Chriſt*, but only ſome particular ſorts, for if every kind of oppoſition of *Chriſt*, if every ſmall degree of ſinning did formally denominate and conſtitute any perſon an *Antichriſt*, then the greateſt degree or kind of wickedneſs would render a perſon the grand *Antichriſt*, and if ſo, then we need ſeek no farther, for then the *Devil* muſt be the *Antichriſt*, for the *Devil* is a greater adverſary to *Chriſt* and a wickeder perſon than any man in the World can poſſibly be: Yea he is the prime cauſe of all *Atheiſme*, *Antichriſtianisme*, of all Hereſie and Sin in the World, yet he can't be an *Atheiſt*, or an *Antichriſt*, for he believes that *Jeſus* is come in the *Fleſh*, and is truly the Son of God, *Mar. 1. 24. Mar. 3. 11.*

Befides, the *Devil* oppoſed *Chriſt* in his life time, and his Religion and Diſciples in the Apoſtles dayes, as much as ever ſince, but the grand *Antichriſt* was not to appear, till laſt the dayes, ſo there are many *Hereticks* and vicious liverſ in the Church, yet Hereſie and vice only puts them under the number and ſpecies of

of bad reprobate Christians in contradiction to the good and Orthodox Christians, but they can no more be called *Antichrists*, then the Heretical Pharisees and vicious Sadducees could be called *Anti-Jews*, for they Worshipped no other God, but the God of the Jews.

Therefore, I shall interpret the Word *Antichrist*, as any rational man would interpret an *Anti-moses*, *Anti-mahomet*, *Anti-Jew* or *Anti-Gentile*, for a man or Generation of men of a contrary Religion to either of them. For *Antichrist* cannot be a Christian but must be a sect of men, or else the head and ring-leader of a Faction or sort of men, that are of a contrary Religion to *Christ*, for the word *Antichrist* is mentioned in no place of Scripture but in St. *Johns* Epistles only, 1 *John* 2. 22. 23. 2 *epist.* 7. he is *Antichrist* that denies the Father, and the Son, and that denies that *Christ* is come in the Flesh; now neither of St. *Johns* definitions can agree to any Christians in the World, for such either never were, or else do cease to be Christians, for such as deny that the *Messias* is already come, are Jews; & they that deny the Father and the Son, deny the very essential form of Baptism, by which men are constituted Christians, such deny the chief Articles of our Creed, the incarnation of *Christ*, and the Trinity. And who and what were those many *Antichrists* that were in St. *Johns* dayes, 1 *John* 2. 18. are expounded by St. *John* himself, ver. 19. to be such as went out from the Church, and so discovered themselves not to be true Christians: there were many *Antichristian Jews*, and *Heathens* in St. *Johns* time, and many other prophane *Gnosticks*, that were plotting and contriving another new Religion, in contempt of and opposition to *Christ*, for this mystery of iniquity began to work in St. *Pauls* dayes, 2 *Thes.* 2. Besides, these *Antichrists* are directly opposed to those that *ἐχειν τὴν χρίσιν* or had the Christian Religion still abiding in them, v. 24. 27. for *χρίσιν* is the only proper word in Greek for Christianity, and it comes from the same greek *radix* as *Christ*, and therefore must be the formal abstract, that denominates any subject Christian.

And if you interpret this *χρίσιν* the holy unction of the Spirit of Grace, the sense is still the same; for they that have not the Spirit of *Christ* are none of *Christs*, *Rom.* 8. 19.

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Therefore I say again, that the *general Essence of Antichrist*, consists in the contrariety of Religion to Christs, even as an *Anti-Socinian*, an *Anti-Lutheran*, or *Anti-Papist*, is one of a contrary opinion to the *Socinians*, *Lutherans*, *Papists*.

For it implies as much a contradiction to affirm, that *Antichrist* can be a *Christian*, as that an *Anti-Moses* or an *Anti-Mahomet* should be one of *Moses* or *Mahomet's* Religion; now since there are *three Religions in the World*, and but three only contrary to the Religion of Christ, hence I inferre, that there are three, and but three sorts of *Antichrists*, *Jews*, *Heathens*, and *Mahometans*.

The *Jews* deny that Christ is yet come in the *Flesh*; the *Heathens* worshipped other feigned *Gods*, besides the true God of the *Christians*, and both most maliciously persecuted the Name, Religion, and Disciples of *Jesus*, therefore they both were formally *Antichrists*.

But yet both *St. John* and *St. Paul* expected and Prophefied that in the *last dayes*, after their death, upon the falling away of the Nations from the Roman Emperour, or (as others say) of *Christians* from the Faith, another *worse and wicked* *Antichrist* should appear, who should oppose and exalt himself against Christ more then either *Jews* or *Heathens*, 2 *Thes.* 2. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

*Hue and Cry* has been sent for this *Antichrist* throughout the Earth, all the marks of the *beast* described, and they that have been taken upon suspicion are the *Pope of Rome* and *Mahomet*.

But the main ground of mens mistakes in this controversy, is their misinterpreting and wrong applying of *St. Johns* Prophefie of the *Whore Babylon*, and the *Beast* thereof.

'Tis granted on all sides, that *Babylon* in the *Revelation*, is not the *Eastern Babylon* of *Semiramis* and *Nebuchadnezzar* in *Chaldea*, for that was destroyed by *Cyrus the Persian*, and all the Jewish Prophefies against her were fulfilled long before *St. Johns* time. Therefore this new *Babylon* must be some other great City like unto old *Babylon* for *Idolatry* and persecuting of the *Saints*.

1. And first, the Character of the *Whore of Babylon* in the 17. chapter of the *Revelations* can agree to no other City in the world

world but to *Rome* only, because no other City in *St. Johns* days reigned over all the Kings and Nations of the Earth, but *Rome* only; yet in point of Prudence and Policy the *Apostles* did not openly and plainly Prophecie the destruction of *Rome*, for fear of exasperating the *Romans* to greater cruelty against *Christians*.

2. No other City then was built on seven Hills, but *Rome* only, viz. 1. *Mons Palatinus*, 2. *Capitolinus*, 3. *Viminalis*, 4. *Aventinus*, 5. *Esquilinus*, 6. *Celius*, 7. *Quirinalis*.

3. No other Country was destroyed by ten Kings, which in *St. Johns* time had not the name and Power of Kings, but the Countrey of *Rome* only; there were indeed many more Kings which erected Monarchies in the remote Dominions of the old *Roman Empire*, as in *Germany* and *Brittain*, &c. which never came near, or entred *Italy* with Hostile Armies: Therefore I shall insit only on those ten Kings which invaded *Italy* and destroyed the City *Rome*.

1. The first was *Alaricus* King of the *Gothes*.

2. *Attila* King of the *Hunnes*.

3. *Genfericus* King of the *Vandals*.

4. *Byorgus* King of the *Alani* or *Lithuani*, then the *Gothes* invaded *Italy* and sacked *Rome* again.

5. *Odoacer* King of the *Heruli*.

6. *Gundebaldus* King of the *Burgundians*.

7. *Alboinus* King of the *Lombards*.

8. The King of the *French*, *Pipin*, and *Charles the Great* his Son, the first Emperour of the *Germans*, who with his *French* and *German* Souldiers made a most complete conquest of all *Italy*.

9. *Mahomet III.* King of the *Saracens* who conquered *Naples* and fired the very Suburbs of *Rome*.

10. *Mahomet the great*, King of the *Turks* who took *Otranto* and frightned the people of *Rome* out of their Habitations, so that the City was left naked and desolate, some of these Kings invaded the Country of *Rome* several times, as the *Burgundians* twice invaded *Italy*.

So the *Gothes* took *Rome* twice, yet their King *Theodoricus* is not to be accounted a different King from *Alaricus*, because

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they were both Kings of the same blood, of one and the same Nation and People; the like may be said of the *French Kings* and *German Emperours*, the Successors or Countrymen of *Charles the great*, for the *French and Germans* were all one in the days of *Charles M.* Yea to illustrate the Truth of this Prophecie according to the present state of *Italy*, since 'twas ransack'd by these *ten Kings* and since the fall of most of their Kingdomes and Power in *Italy*, 'tis again ordered by Divine Providence, that *Italy* is divided into ten States and Principalities, no more nor lesse, as

1. The Kingdome of *Naples*.
2. The Popedome of *Rome*.
3. The Commonwealth of *Venice*.
4. The Dukedome of *Florence*.
5. The Dukedome of *Millain*.
6. The Dukedome of *Mantua*.
7. The Dukedome of *Urbine*.
8. The Principate of *Parma*.
9. The State of *Genoa*.
10. The State of *Luca*.

4thly. No other City had *seven sorts of Kings*, or *seven forms of Governments*, whereof five before *St. Johns* time were fallen, the sixth then was, and the seventh was to come shortly, but *Rome* only,

1. The *Romulean Kings*.
2. *Consuls*.
3. *Decemviri*.
4. *Triumviri*.
5. *Dictatours*.
6. *Pagan Emperours*.

7. *Christian or Constantinopolitan Emperours*. I know that the *seventh King of Rome* is commonly reputed the *Pope*, but that contradicts all Reason and History of times.

1. For First *St. John* sayes expressly that when the *seventh King* comes, he shall continue but a *very short time*, *Rev. 17. 10.* but the *Pope of Rome* has been accounted supream Head of the Church above a 1000 years, and has claimed his Temporal power over all Kings and Princes above 600 years, and has been

King

King or Lord of *Rome* above 800 years.

2. The seventh King must be the next to the sixth King of *Rome*, but the next to the sixth in *St. Johns* dayes, was *Constantine the Great*, he continued but a short space at *Rome*, but removed to *Constantinople*, and at his death divided the whole *Roman Empire* into three parts between his three sons.

To his eldest son *Constantinus* he gave *Germany, France, Spain, Brittain, &c.* His second son *Constans* he made Emperour of *Rome, Illyricum, Affrica, &c.* His third son *Constantius* was Emperour of *Constantinople* and the East.

Upon the death of the two Elder sons, his youngest son, the *Constantinopolitan Emperour* was again Emperour of *Rome*, and all its former Dominions.

Neither did this Union last long, for within 50 years *Theodosius the great* divided the whole Empire again the second time, between his two sons, to *Arcadius* the eldest he gave *Constantinople* and the East, to *Honorius* the youngest he gave *Rome* and the West. After the death of eleven Western Emperours, the *Empire of Rome* was again the third time devolved on the *Constantinopolitan*, as the right Heir apparent, who set up *Exarks* at *Ravenna* to keep *Italy* in peace and order, and *Rome* was turned into a subordinate *Dukedome*, and when these *Exarks* of *Ravenna* were one of the *Lombards*, then the *Pope* by palpable Rebellion and Usurpation made himself *King of Rome*; yea *Alaricus* King of the *Gothes*, *Genfericus* King of the *Vandals*, *Odoacer* King of the *Hervuli, &c.* were Kings of *Rome* before the *Pope*. So that the *Pope* is more likely to be the seventeenth King of *Rome* than the seventh.

3. *Constantine the great* must be the seventh King of *Rome*, because he was one of a different Religion, and also an Emperour of a different Place from the sixth King in *St. Johns* dayes, yea this *Constantine the great* may passe for the seventh and Eighth, for a double and single Emperour too, he may passe for the beast, that was, is not, and yet is, at whom the World so much wondred, *Rev. 17. 8. 11.* for he was first for a small time King of *Rome*, after he had erected another Imperial Seat, viz. *Constantinople*, it might have been said of him, he is not King of *Rome*, but of an higher place for *omnis denominatio fit a prestantiori*



*tiori*, and yet *is*, because he had as much power and command over *Rome*, as any before. Now since 'tis said there are but seven Kings of *Rome*, and yet an *eighth* is mentioned, therefore those words [*he is the eighth; and is of the seventh, Rev. 17. 11.*] may be interpreted *one of the seven*, or the *same with the seventh*, as *Constantine* was.

The *Heathens* wondred at the seeming folly and madness of *Constantine the Great*, in forsaking *Rome*, whereas *Cammillus* was highly extolled for his wisdom in firing down to the ground the Town *Veji*, lest the conveniencies and pleasantness of *Veji* should tempt the *Romans* to leave their Antient Seat, the City *Rome*.

If this interpretation please not, the *Roman History* informs us, that there was an *eighth King of Rome*, which was a limb, part or member of the seven former, there were but seven complete, total, universal Kings of *Rome*, but yet at last there was a partial half or Western *Emperour*. Thus upon the first division of the empire by *Constantine the Great*, there was an *eighth* or partial *Emperour* *Constans*, upon the re-union of the Empire, he is not, upon the second division by *Theodosius*, he is again, *Honorius* and his Successors in whose time the great City *Rome* was to the wonder of the world Conquered by those puny inconsiderable Nations of the *Gothes* and *Vandals*, &c.

*Constantine the Great* must needs be the *seventh King of Rome* because he governed by different Laws, and made a greater alteration in the *Roman Empire* than either the *Consuls*, *Decemviri*, *Triumviri* or *Casars* did at their changing of the Government. Yea all Historians and Chronologers make a new era epocha and date in their computation of time at the reign of *Constantine the Great*, and there is this good reason for it, because then the number of the Beast was fulfilled, *Rev. 13. 18. 19.* And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is Wisdom, let him that has understanding count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is  $\chi \xi \varsigma$ . The meaning of which Prophecie is, that when Forty two *Emperours* should have finished their reign in *Rome*, then the number of *Heathen Emperours* should be accomplished, the persecution should cease, and *Babylon*



*bylon* should fall, as may be clearly inferred from the Chapters immediately following, *Rev. 14. 3. 6. 8. Rev. 15. 23.*

For the clearing this mystery, these propositions must be demonstrated.

1. That the *number of the beast* is not 666 but 42 only.
2. That there were 42 Emperours of *Rome*, and but 42 before it fell.
3. In the Reign of the 43th Emperour, *Rome* fell, the persecution ceased, and *Christians* had joy.
1. That the number of the beast is not 666. but 42 only.

$$\begin{array}{r} \chi \quad \xi \quad \varsigma \\ 22 \quad 14 \quad 6 \\ \hline 42 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \chi \quad 22 \\ \xi \quad 14 \\ \varsigma \quad 6 \\ \hline 42 \end{array}$$

For to interpret the *number 666* is to contradict all experience and History of the times, in the year 607 the *Pope* arose, and in the year 622 *Mahomet*, but in the year 666 there was no remarkable accident throughout the world, and no mans name could ever as yet be found out to expresse this number; 'tis an antient Tradition in the Church, that the word *καίσαρ* doth signifie this number, but the only true meaning thereof is this, that the beast, which *St. John* prophecyeth of is a *Latine i.e. a Roman or Italian*; but it doth not determine, whether it be the *Latine Emperour* or the *Latine Pope*. The Christian Emperour of *Rome* was a *Latine*, as well as the Pagan, and the good old Bishops of *Rome* were *Latines* as well as the *Pope*.

Neither can it be proved that there were 666 persons, no more nor lesse, Governours of *Rome*, from the very first foundation thereof to its final destruction. It must be confessed that the numeral letters  $\chi \xi \varsigma$  do signifie according to the Greeks ordinary way of numbering 666. But thus every fool might count the number, and there is *no mystery* or difficulty in this interpretation, but *St. John* sayes, it requires extraordinary wisdom, a rare understanding to count this number, *Rev. 13. 19. erit mihi magnus Apollo, that does it.* Now the *Greeks* have a way of numbring sometimes by their letters contrary to, and diverse from the common way of numbring, as appears by *Homers* intituling his first

first book α, his ninth book ι, his tenth κ, his eleventh λ, his twelfth μ, &c. whereas according to the Greeks ordinary way of numbring ι signifies 10, κ 20, λ 30, μ 40. thus *Adrianus Amerotius* observes, that sometimes among the Greeks the first letter α stands for one, and the twenty fourth letter ω for 24, so that the two and twentieth letter in the Greek Alphabet χ may stand for 22, and the fourteenth letter ξ for 14 as *Homer* names his two and twentieth and fourteenth book, and ε is the usual figure of 6 as for Example.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| $\begin{array}{r} \chi \quad \xi \quad \epsilon \\ 22 \quad 14 \quad 6 \\ \hline 42 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \chi \quad 22 \\ \xi \quad 14 \\ \epsilon \quad 6 \\ \hline 42 \end{array}$ |
|--|---|

A comparison between the numeral figures of *Homer's books* and the chapters of *Genesis* or *St. Mathew*, &c. will most clearly evidence the Truth of this mystery, for the 22th. and the 14th. chapters of *Genesis*, and *St. Mathew* are entituled κϵ and ιδ but 22th. and 14th. books of *Homer* are χ and ξ.

The number, the name, and the mark of the beast are all mentioned together, *Rev.* 13. 17. 18. The beast is the Roman Emperour, for so in *Daniel*, the *Affyrian*, *Perſian*, and *Greek* Empires are called and compared to Beasts. The mark of the Beast are those Idols he set up to be worshipped, so χαρῶμεθα signifies; *Act.* 17. 29. whosoever would not own the name of a Roman Subject, nor worship his Idols should neither buy nor sell, i. e. have neither Life nor Liberty. Therefore the number of the beast must be the number of those Emperours, that should uphold the Idolatry and persecution of Rome. The number of the beast is said to be the number of a man, and that mans number is χξς i. e. that man, who shall be the forty second Emperour of Rome, shall be last of the Idolatrous persecuting Emperours, and this the event proves true, and all Divines say, that Prophecies ought to be interpreted according to the event.

2. The second Proposition to be demonstrated, is, that there were 42 and but 42 Emperours who reigned over Rome, before it fell; during the reign of 42 Emperours, Heathens bare the sway,

sway, but afterward the Empire of the World fell into the hands of Christians, this must be proved by an authentick Catalogue of the *Roman Emperours*.

*Julius Cæsar.*  
*Octavius Augustus.*  
*Tiberius.*  
*Caligula.*  
*Claudius.*  
*Domitius.*  
*Sulpitius Galba.*  
*Silvius Orbo.*  
*Vitellius.*  
*Flavius Vespasianus.*  
*Titus Vespasianus.*  
*Domitianus.*  
*Nerva Cocceius.*  
*Trajanus.*  
*Adrianus.*  
*Antoninus Pius.*  
*Aurelius Commodus.*  
*Antonius Philosophus:*  
*Antoninus Commodus.*  
*Perinax.*  
*Didius Julianus.*  
*Septimius Severus.*  
*Bassianus Caracalla.*

*Opilius Macrinus.*  
*Helioabulus.*  
*Alexander Severus.*  
*Jul. Maximinus.*  
*Gordianus.*  
*Philippus Arabs.*  
*Decius.*  
*Gallus Hostilianus.*  
*Familianus Maurus.*  
*Valerianus.*  
*Gallienus.*  
*Flavius Claudius.*  
*Quintilius.*  
*Valentius Aurelianus.*  
*Annius Tacitus.*  
*Florianus.*  
*Valerius probus.*  
*Carus.*  
*Dioclesianus.*  
*Constantius Chlorus.*  
*Constantinus M.*

See Heylins Geography ~~in~~ ~~the~~

~~Margum~~

Against this Catalogue of *Roman Emperours*, some object, that there were not so many, before *Rome* fell.

I Answer, the *Modern Historians* make no mention of *Quintilius* and *Florianus*, because the one reigned but 17 days, and the other not a month. But *Quintilius* was brother and Heir apparent to *Flavius Claudius*, and so was *Florianus* to *Annius Tacitus*, and both were elected Emperours by the consent of the Senate as saith *Papiscus*.

2. Object. Others mention many more *Emperours* than these; I Answer, there were many more usurpers of, and competitors for the Empire, without the consent of the Senate, but yet there was but one chief prevailing Emperour; so there were many *Co-Emperours*, and *Associates* in the Government, yet they are to be accounted but for one Head or Governour of *Rome*,

*Rome* ; even as those many men in a Senate or Parliament make but one Senate or Parliament.

3. Object. Others say, there were *Christian Emperours of Rome* before *Constantine the Great*, as *Philippus Arabs* and *Chlorus*. I Answer, if *Philippus Arabs* was Baptized, 'twas but in secret, so he was but only a *Nicodemian Christian*, and *Chlorus* was only a great favourer of Christians, but none were publick Professours and establishers of Christianity, before *Constantine the Great*.

4. Object. There were Persecutions after the death of *Constantine the Great*, and that *Romes Pagan Idolatry* revived in the reign of *Julian the Apostate*. I Answer, *Julian* was a born, bred and professed Christian at first, but afterward turned Apostate, and his one short persecution was but as a short storm in the Summer, which does not argue it therefore Winter : that was but the last effort of dying *Babylon*, which had received her mortal wound from *Constantine the Great*. Some Christians also have persecuted other Christians since, but the whole race of *Pagan Emperours* was then ended, and the Antient Christians in *Julians* time did comfort one another with this cordial, that 'twas but a little Cloud or Tempest which would soon vanish away, even as there were some *lucida intervalla*, many times of tranquillity and refreshment to the Christians, before the number of *Pagan persecuting Emperours* was fulfilled.

3. And now I proceed to demonstrate the third proposition that after that 42 *Emperours* had reigned in *Rome*, the number of the beast was accomplished, and *Babylon* fell.

1. For the 43 *Emperour of Rome*, *Constantine the great*, was a professed Christian, and the first subverter of the *Roman Empire*; for in his reign the *Idolatrous Religion of Rome* was suppressed, the Gospel had its liberty to be preached to, and heard of all Nations, the Heathenish Priests were displaced, and other Civil and Military Officers were discountenanced, the whole race of *Pagan Emperours* were extinct, and the persecuting power of *Rome* was taken away.

2. *Constantine the Great* degraded *Rome* from being the *Empresse* of the World, and made her fall down as an inferiour subject to a superiour imperial City *Constantinople*, whether he

he transported most of *Rome's* magnificent antiquities and most splendid Ornaments.

3. He removed the *Legions* and *Colonies* of *Roman Soldiers* out of the North and West, into the East; to fight against the *Persians*; &c. whereupon followed a most dreadful inundation of the barbarous Nations over all *Italy*.

4. He abrogated the *old Roman Laws*, called *lex Julia* and *Papia*, containing great commands and privileges of a married life, and zealously promoted and encouraged a *Monastical* and *unmarried State* among *Christians*, whereby the *Roman Empire* was so enfeebled and weakened through want of procreation of Children, that it had not Souldiers enough to encounter the mighty Armies of the *barbarous Nations*.

5. He disbanded the *Prætorian Order* (for their frequent exorbitances and rebellions) which were the chief *Guardians* and supporters of the *Roman Emperours*, as the *Fanizaries* are of the *great Turk*.

6. He divided at his death the *Roman Empire* between his three sons into three parts.

2. The number of the *beast* is first mentioned in the 2 last verses of the 13 chapter of the *Revelation*, and in the 2d verse of the 14 chapter, and no where else, and immediately follows the great joy, blessing, and thanksgiving of those *Christians* that had overcome the number of the *beast*, i. e. those that survived and continued *Christians*, after that the number of 42 *Emperours* had reigned in *Rome*.

Yea they sang the same song of *Moses* for their deliverance from the *Babylonish beast*, which the *Israelites* did sing for their deliverance from the *Egyptian Pharaoh* at the red Sea, *Rev. 14. 2. 3. 4. Rev. 15. 23.*

Now all *Ecclesiastical History* shews, that the first and greatest rejoicing of *Christians* was in the reign of *Constantine the Great*. Yea this their praising and thanksgiving can be applied to no other time what ever; for the *other falls of Babylon* afterward by the *Goths*, *Vandals*, &c. were causes not of joy but of greif and lamentation to *Christians*, at that time the only inhabitants of *Rome*.

And now since we have proved that *Constantine* was the ruiner

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of that famous and Antient Empire of *Rome*, and since for so doing he is so much reproached and condemned by *Julian Zozi-men* and others, it concerns Christians to vindicate and justify that holy and wise Emperour, from whom all *Christendome* has received so much good; therefore first, *Constantine the Great* ought not to be blamed for relinquishing *Rome*, that antient Imperial Seat, because he acted only according to Divine Revelation, and the *instinct and command of Heaven* from God had commanded all Christians to come out of *Babylon*, *Rev. 18. 4.* whether *St. Peter* ordered and appointed *Rome* to be the *Metropolis* of *Christendom*, and the Bishop thereof to be supream head of the Church, cannot be proved out of Scripture; but this is certain, that *St. John* after *St. Peters death* by Divine Revelation from Heaven expressly commands all Christians, both Emperours, Bishops and people of *Rome* locally to depart out of the accursed City, for God was resolved on the utter ruine of that Idolatrous persecuting abominable place, and to make it an habitation of Owls, Satyres, Devils and unclean Beasts *Rev. 18. 21. to 24.*

2. That a strong Bullwark against the *Persians* and other *Enemies* in the East was necessary for the upholding the *Roman Empire*, and that the Eastern part thereof was the best and richest, and that therefore 'twas most fit to defend that before the poor Barbarous West, no rational man can deny: And that *Constantine the Great* chose out the most convenient place throughout the whole World to make the Imperial Seat, viz. *Constantinople*, all Cos-mographers and Travellers will justify.

3. He was as discreet, wise and valiant, as temperate, sober, and universally vertuous, as industrious, victorious, and as careful for the publick good as any of the former *Casars*, but he could not reclaim the great men of *Rome* from worshipping their ancient Idols, and therefore resolves to build a City of pure Christians, wherein God should be worshipped in as great glory, freedome and purity as he was in old *Jerusalem*.

In short, the decree in Heaven against *Rome*, was past; and she deserved utter destruction, in justice she ought to be hated and abhorred, and plagued by the Universe, because she had so cruelly persecuted the Saints, and Tyrannized over the Nations of the



the Earth so long, without all mercy and measure, Rev. 18. 5. 6. 7. and it ought to be no more our wonder that the *ancient City and Empire of Rome* should have a fall, than that those ancient and great Cities of *Nineveh* and the *Eastern Babylon*, those mighty and famous Empires of *Assyria*, *Persia*, and *Greece* should come to the like shameful end. Yea *many of the barbarous Nations* (as *Jernandes* affirms) did protest, that they were sent by God, and had commands and Revelations from Heaven to destroy *Rome*, 'twas not without some extraordinary reason, that *Attila King of the Hunnes* styled himself the *scourge of God* to lash the *whore of Babylon* for all her abominations.

To conclude my former argument, all the Prophecies that follow in the 14. and 15. chapters of the Revelation immediately after the first mention of the *number of the beast* in Rev. 13. 18. 19. were fulfilled in the reign of *Constantine the great*, and therefore the *number of the beast* was then expired, for my part I look upon the Revelation of *St. John*, not only as a Canonical book, but also a great honour to, and a clear conviction of the Truth of the Christian Religion, against *Atheists* and *Infidels*; as *Daniel's* prophesie of the rise and fall of the *Assyrian*, *Persian*, and *Greek Monarchies* was to *Alexander M.* and others that read it, a conviction of the excellency of the *Jewish Religion*, for the *Testimony* of *Jesus* is the *Spirit of prophesie*.

And if you compare the Revelation with the History of the decay and ruine of the *Roman* and *Constantinopolitan Empires*, you may find every word thereof exactly fulfilled, only allowing some *Hyperbolical expressions*, which all *Rhetoricians* count lawful.

*Jesus* himself foretold the destruction of the famous City of the Jews, *Jerusalem*; and after that was performed by *Titus Vespasian*, *Jesus* reveals to *St. John* (in the very next Emperours reign, *Domitian*, who sent *St. John* into *Patmos*) the destruction of *Rome*. 1. The most famous City of the Heathens. 2. He Prophecies of the Resurrection of *Christians*, and of their poor, low, persecuted condition to great Riches and Honour, Rev. 20. 3. That the Empire and Government of the World should shortly fall into the hands of *Christians*, so as they should reign, rule and get the upper hand and Dominion over those Heathens, that had

so cruelly and inhumanely persecuted and domineer'd over them so long before, Rev. 20. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. 4. 'Tis farther prophesied, that this Empire reigning, and fifth Monarchy of Christians should continue a 1000 years. 5. That after a 1000 years reigning *Gog Magog* should make war against, and overcome the Saints, Rev. 20. 7, 8. Now that St Johns Revelation is to be expounded as a *Rhetorical Prophecie*, or *Prophetical History* of the future state of *Rome*, *Christendom*, and *Turky*, I shall now demonstrate by the event. The *Empire of Christendom* began in *Constantine the great*, and ended in *Constantinus Palaeologus*. *Gog Magog* is the *Turk* who came out of *Tartary* or *Scythia* the Countrey of *Magog*, and after the 1000 years of Christians reigning were expired, I say, about the next age, the *Turks* conquered the beloved and imperial City of Christendom, Constantinople, which the primitive Christians built on purpose for their Christian Emperour to reign in, out of their detestation of *Idolatrous bloody Rome*, An. 310. *Constantine the great*, the first Christian Emperour, began his reign: An. 1300 the cheif Family of the *Turks*, the *Oguzian* or *Ottoman line*, began their *Sultany* at *Saguta*, and their war against the Christians. An. 315 Constantinople the Imperial City of Christendome was built. An. 1452 'Twas totally conquered by the *Turks*; Constantinople indeed was besieged and much endamaged by the *Scythians* in the reign of *Anastatius*, and again by the *Saracens* in the dayes of *Leo Isaurus*, the *Latines* also possessed the Imperial Throne thereof 60 years, but the *Latine Emperours* were Christians, as well as the *Greeks*, and were not *Magogs* off-spring, but Constantinople was never taken, and the Emperour thereof totally overcome, but by the *Turks* under *Mahomet the great*, An. 1452. so that the Christians held the cheif City of the world about 1130 years. The *Jewish and Christian Prophets*, took no notice of the petty *Empire of Germany*, of those small Kingdoms of *England*, *France*, or *Spain*, &c. but cheifly Prophefied of the *grand Monarchies of the World*, and they are six, 1. The *Assyrian*, 2. *Persian*, 3. *Greek*, 4. *Roman*, 5. The *Empire of Christendom* or *Constantinopolitan*, and 6 the *Empire of Gog Magog* the *Turk* or *Tartarian*. *Gog Magog* now flourishes more than all the *Sons of Noah* besides. For not only *Tartary* and *Turky* is now in *Gog Magogs* possession but also those vast Empires of *Persia* and *Chi-*

*China* have been conquered by him. Yea the great *Mogul* reckons himself the 10th. from that most wonderful conquerour of the East, *Tamerlain* a *Tartarian*. The great *Turk* also has gotten a large footing in the *Venetian* and *German* Dominions, & there is a firm League made between the *Emperour of Turkey* & the great *Cham of Tartary* that the great *Cham of Tartary* shall aid the *Turk* with 60000 Souldiers on all occasions, and if the male line of the *Ottomans* fail, the *Cham of Tartary* shall be Emperour of *Turkey*. Under *Gog Magog* Christians now suffer a second death, i.e. oppression, persecution and misery, as their first death was under the *Heathen Romans*. How long *Gog Magog* shall prosper we can't determine, but we have Prophecies that he also shall be destroyed, *St. John* sayes, fire from Heaven shall devour him, *Rev.* 20. 9. and then Christians may expect a second Resurrection and reigning, after which there shall be no third death, *Rev.* 20. 13. and more glorious times may be hoped for hereafter, than ever Christians enjoyed before, *Rev.* 21. and 22. chap. for *Christ's Kingdome* is an universal Kingdome, and of his Dominion there shall be no end, *Dan.* 7. 27. And to me it seems strange that this Prophecy being of such great concernment to Christians and *Turks*, that neither of them should understand or take more notice of it before.

1. From what hath been said, hence I inferre that the *Chiliasm's* opinion is both vain and erroneous, for the first Resurrection of Christians and their *Millennium* of reigning, is past long ago; because *Gog Magog* is already come, and yet he was not to come till the Christians had reigned a 1000 years, and no History records, no eye ever saw, no ear ever heard, that any of the Christian Saints and Martyrs bodies rose out of their Graves and lived on earth again, or that the body of *Christ* descended from Heaven to reign on a Throne on Earth. Therefore the first Resurrection of the Saints must be interpreted according to the sense of that Resurrection promised to the Jews, *Ezek.* 37. 1. to 15. where the Israelites being in an hopelesse distressed condition are compared to dry bones without life, but God promises to bring them out of their Graves, and to put his spirit into them, and make them live again, and become a great Army, and return into the Land of *Israel*. Now none of those Jews that were slain; dyed, and were buried in Graves in *Babylon*, ever lived again or returned to the Land of *Israel*, but only their posterity or surviving brethren. A desperate, helplesse, distressed condition is called in Scripture death, *Exod.* 10. 17. *Psal.* 88. 3, 4, 5. *2 Cor.* 11. 23. therefore the first Resurrection of Christians must be their first deliverance from the Heathens Persecution, and oppression, and banishment in the reign of *Constantine the Great*, who was the first lifter up of the Heads and Hearts

Hearts of Christians who made Christians Governors of Cities, Generals of Armies, and Priests of Churches, In the *first four Monarchies of the World*, Heathen Kings and Priests bore the sway, but under the *fifth Monarchy* the Saints possessed the Kingdom, and held the Government of the chief places of the World in their own hands above a 1000 years.

2. Hence I inferre that that *Babylon* which St. John Prophesied against, is fallen above a 1000 years ago, for first *Gog Mageg* is come, and he was not to come till Christians had reigned a 1000 years, and 'twas impossible for *Christians* to rise and reign, till *Babylons* power was fallen.

2. About *an. 315*. when Constantine the great set the Imperial Crown on *Byzantium*, then was *Rome* degraded, about *anno. 410*. *Rome* was most ruinously sacked, and fired down to the ground by the *Goths*, & again *an. 455*. by the *Vandals*, and as the *Chaldean Babylon* was said to be fallen, when 'twas taken and its Empire was translated to the *Persians* by the *grand Cyrus*, although that *Babylon* continues still a famous City called *Bagder*; so though *Rome* be yet a great City yet she has been often made desolate and naked, for her seven Heads have been cut of long ago, and her Empire quite gave up the Ghost upon the death of *Augustus*, before *anno 500*. yea those ten strange Kings which should be the destruction of *Rome*, most of their names and Kingdoms are utterly perished: lastly the *falling away* of the Nations from the *Roman Empire* is past, 2 *Thess.* 2, 3, 4. and began about *Anno 365* about which time was a most ominous, prodigious Earthquake, and the water swelled higher in the Houses and Mountains; then and shortly after happened the dreadful inundation of *Barbarous Nations* over the *Roman Empire*, as *Goths*, *Hunns*, *Vandals*, *Almaines*, *Quades*, *Picts*, *Scots*, *Saxons*, *Heruli*, *Alani*, *Lombards*, *Franks*, &c. over-run like swarms of Locusts all *Romes* Territories. Yea if you interpret St. Pauls *falling away* of *Christians* from the Faith, *Mahomet* observed and affirms that in his time there was the greatest Apostacy of *Christians* into *Herese*, *Idolatry*, and *Prophaneness*, more *factious* and *divisions* than ever were known before; and pretends this to be the grand reason that moved him to make a *new model of Religion*, to unite all men of all Religions and humours whatever, under his Banner. In short *Antichrist* that man of sin, is already revealed, the *Roman Emperour*, that hindred his coming, is fallen long ago, therefore the grand *falling away* in 2 *Thess.* 2. 3, 4. is already past.

Some say *Pagan Rome* is fallen, but not *Christian Rome*. I Answer, *Rome* was never taken and destroyed since St. Johns dayes, but when 'twas totally *Christian*: and this is the great wonder why those *Plagues* and *Woos* denounced against *Rome* for her *Idolatry*, persecutions, and other

other wickednesses, should fall upon the Heads of Christians? to which I answer, that at the destruction of Rome, the reason why the (Christians then the only inhabitants thereof,) suffered so much, was their own fault; either their ignorance of the Prophecy or their unwillingness to leave their old Habitation, for they were all commanded by God *locally to depart out of Babylon* lest they should be partakers of their punishments, Rev. 18.4. If *Lot* had not run out of *Sodom*, he had been burnt with the Sodomites; if *Tobias* had not left *Niniveh*, as his Father *Tobit* commanded him, he must have suffered with the *Ninivites*. Thus a voice from Heaven warned the Christians to fly out of *besieged Jerusalem* to *Pella*, i. e. to *Greece* the Country of the *Juvenis Pellæus*, *Alexander M.* where God intendeth to set up an Empire of Christians: therefore all the Christians in Rome should have fled out of that accursed place, with their Emperour *Constantine the great*; for God was resolved to revenge on her all the blood of his Saints, and with Fire and Sword utterly to bring her to perpetual desolation. Therefore we may better distinguish between *Imperial Rome*, and *Papal Rome*; *Imperial Rome* both Pagan and Christian is fallen totally, but *Papal* is not; yet the Pope though he continues still a mighty Prince, yet he also has received a dreadful wound by *Luther*, *Calvin*, and *Cranmer*, &c.

3. Hence I inferre that *St. John* did not primarily and intentionally direct his Prophecy against the Pope and *Papal Rome*, but against *Imperial* and *Pagan Rome*, for *St. John* says, Rev. 1. and c. 22. that he Prophesies of things that must shortly come to passe, and now tis about 1500 years since *St. Johns* days writting, and yet the Pope continues in great Power, and not likely to fall totally, as yet. 2. *Papal Rome* stands not upon 7 Hills, but since 'twas burnt by the *Goths* and *Vandals*, tis new built on *Campus Martius*, nearer the River *Tibris*: so that *Papal Rome* is a new different City from *old Rome* in *St. John* dayes, neither is the Pope one of the 7 Heads of *Rome*, but one that cut off her Head. But yet the Character of the *Whore Babylon* and the *Beast* that she rides on, may secondarily by way of similitude and Analogy be applyed to *Papal Rome* and the Pope, even as whatsoever was written to the Jewish and Apostolical Churches primarily, intentionally, and directly, was also written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the World are come.

And if *Papal Rome* be guilty of the same sins and wickedness, that *Pagan Rome* is reprov'd for in Scripture, then she must expect to partake of the same Plagues and punishments; yea tis already visible, that the Nations are in part already fallen away from the Pope, as they did formerly from the *old Roman Emperour*, the *English*, *Scots*, *Irish*, *Dutch*, *Danes*,

*Danes, Swedes*, with a great part of *Germany and France*, are revolted from the *Popes jurisdiction and Religion*. The *Pope* looks just like the *Emperours Ape*, for as the *Emperours of Eastern and Western Babylon* were insatiably Covetous and Ambitious to grasp all the Kingdoms of the Earth into their fists, so the *Popes of Rome* challenge universal and supreme power over all Churches and Nations in Christendome; and as they were the chief promoters and Patrons of Idolatries, and most cruel persecutors of those Saints, that refused to Worship their Idols, so are the *Popes*. And this is the only difference between the *Pagan Romans*, and the *Papal Romans*, They Worshipped dead Heathens, as *Mars, Apollo, Venus, Minerva*, These worship dead Christians, as the *Virgin Mary, St. Peter* and other Saints; they made to themselves and prayed to images of God, these images of Holy Men and Women, so for their persecutions there is this difference, the Heathens persecuted all Christians in general, but the Pope in the general is a Christian, and only persecutes some particular Christians, that are opposite to his particular opinions and Factions. *Papal Rome* is now become a Whore, as well as old Babylon, and has made her self and the Kings of the Earth drunk with the blood of the Saints: her Churches are full of Idols, and her Streets of abominable Stews.

4. The Character of the *Beast of Babylon* cannot be applied to *Mahomet*, for *Mahomet* is no Idolater, neither are any of his Successors that have espoused his Religion, in any probability of conquering the City, or altering the Religion of Rome. Some say that *Constantinople* is built on 7 Hills, but 'twas not so in *St. Johns* time, 'twas then but poor *Byzantium*, neither did it then reign over all the Kings of the Earth, neither can *Constantinople* now be called the great Whore and Mother of Harlots, as *Babylon* is called, Rev. 17. 4. 5. for the *Turks* abhorre all Worshipping of, or by Images.

5. Though the *beast of Babylon* be primarily and most properly the *Pagan Emperour of Rome*, and though he was an *Antichrist* because of a contrary Religion to Christ, yet he was not the grand or worst *Antichrist*, for he persecuted in the *Apostles dayes*, but the grand *Antichrist* prophesied of by *St. John*, and *St. Paul* was not to appear till the last dayes, after the *Apostles* death. And 'twas the usual practice of the primitive Christians to pray for the continuance of the Roman Empire, because they feared worse times afterwards, under *Antichrist*: and 'twas the general belief of the Christian Church in all ages, that the worst *Antichrist* should arise upon the fall of the *Roman Emperour*, this opinion is grounded on *St. Pauls* Prophecy, 2 *Thess.* 2. 6, 7. The mystery of iniqui-



ty doth already work, only he who now letteth, will let, until he be taken out of the way, and then shall that man of sin be revealed, i. e. there were then some sons of Belial plotting and contriving in their own braines a new model of Religion in opposition to Christianity, but the *Roman Emperour* considering how many of his subjects were dayly murdered for their fidelity, and constancy in the Christian Religion, in point of prudence and policy he would not suffer another new Religion to be broached in his Dominions, as long as he abode in full power and Authority, for fear of another mortality of his Subjects, and another opposition of his own Religion. Since then the *Imperial Scepter* is departed from *Rome*, we may safely conclude that the *grand Antichrist* is come, for the *Pagan, Eastern and Western Emperours of Rome* are all long ago expired; as for the *German Emperour*, he is but of a late extraction, the successor of the French *Charles the great*, neither has he now any Power or Sovereignty over *Italy*, nor so much as one Town or Cattle, or one Foot of Land in *Italy*, the Emperours *Rodolphus Habsburgensis* and *Vinceflaus* were the last, who sold and gave away all their possessions and rights in *Italy*. The lot then is fallen between the *Pope* and *Mahomet*, for they both rose upon the decay of the *Roman Emperour*, and both rose almost together, the *Pope* an. 607. and *Mahomet* an. 622.

But the best way to determine this controverſie is to conſider, to whom the definitions, and descriptions of the *grand Antichrist* in sacred Scripture do most directly and most properly agree. Now 1. *St. Johns* definition of *Antichrist* does properly belong to *Mahomet*. 1 *John* 2. 22. 23. he is the *Antichrist* that denies the Father and the Son, which words imply, that the very essence and chief Character of the *grand Antichrist* consists in this, viz. in denying that *God has a Son* and in denying that *Christ is the Son of God*. Now all Nations (as *Plutarch* observed) worshipped God by the name of Father, as *Jupiter, Mars, piter* *πατήρ* and *θεός*, and if you consult the suffrage, and consent of Nations, you shall find it the Creed of the Universe (before *Mahomet* arose) that *God has a Son*. So the Hebrew, and Chaldeans believed *Prov.* 30. 4. *Dan.* 4. 35. The Greeks and Latines commonly styled famous Heroes Sons of Jove.

But *Mahomet* perceiving, that the Christian Religion was built on this fundamental principle, that *Jesus Christ* was not begot by man but was truly the Son of God, and considering also that he himself was but the Son of a mean obscure man, and lest he should be forced to acknowledge *Christ* to be his better and Superiour in birth and worth, he therefore strains all his wit and policy, to undermine this Article of the Christian

*Religion* above all others, affirming it impossible, that *God* should have a *Son* without granting a *Goddesse*, yea in his *Alcoran* he not only denies *Christ* to be *Gods Son*, but also derides and censures *Christians*, as *Trisheites* and *Polytheistes* for worshipping the sacred *Trinity*. But I know no *Protestants*, that ever accused the *Pope* of denying the *Trinity* and the *Divine Sonship* of *Christ*, neither is it said that he is *Antichrist* who denies *Christs Offices*, but who denies his *Divine Sonship*, or who denies the *Father Son* and *Holy Ghost*.

2. *St. Pauls* propheticall description of the *grand Antichrist* most exactly belongs to *Mahomet*, 2 *Thess.* 2, 3, 4, 5. 1. For first *Mahomet* opposed and exalted himself against, and above all that is called *God*, and worshipped (i. e. not only all the *Idol gods* whom the *Heathens* called *Gods* and worshipped) but also against *Moses* and *Christ* who are called *Gods* in *Scripture*, *Exod.* 4. 16. *Exod.* 7. 9. For he magnified and boasted of himself, as a *greater Prophet* than *Moses* and *Christ*, and he was the only impostor, that ever had the daring impudence to devise and set up another *new Religion* in direct opposition to *Christs*, and all other ways of *Divine worship* in the world.

1. Now that those words (all that is called *God* and *Worshipped*) are not to be interpreted πολιτικός of civil Magistrates or Temporal Kings, nor ἐκκλησιαστικός of Bishops and Priests, but θεολογικός of objects or else *Modes of Divine Worship*, I thus demonstrate; first the *Greek word* (for all that is *Worshipped*) is σέβασμα, now the *Athenian* σεβάσματα (for which the *City* is said to be ἁγείδωλος wholly given to *Idolatry*, and for which the people are said to be δαισιμαυνέσσοι too superstitious, or too great worshippers of *Demons*.) were not the *Areopagites* Magistrates or Priests of *Athens*, but those *Idols* whom they worshipped, *Acts* 17. 16. 23. or their manner of adoration, and modes of devotion.

2. *St. Pauls* words are most plainly paraphrased by *Daniels* prophecy of *Antiochus Epiphanes* Ch. 11. 36. to 40. He is said to exalt and magnify himself above every *God* of the *heathens* and the *God* of *Gods* i. e. the true *God* of *Israel*, and to set up a *new God* of *Mahuzzim* to be worshipped, in opposition to all other *Gods*, so did *Senacharib*, *Isa.* 36. 19, 20. so did *Nebuchadnezzar* *Dan.* 3. 14. to 19.

3. I know many apply these words to the *Popes* exalting himself above all *Kings* and *Bishops* in *Christendome*, therefore I shall prove, that *Supremacy in Church and State* does not formally of it self argue a person *Antichrist*. For as the *King* of *England* is in all causes, and over all persons within his dominions, supreme head and Governour, so was *Constantine the great* and *Theodosius the Great*, and many other good *Christian*



Christian Emperours supream and Univerfall Governours over all the Roman world. So King *David* and *Solomon* &c, Had the supream power over all the priests and princes in Israel, yea sometimes also it happened, that the High priest of Israel or Judah was supream over all in that Church and state, as *Ei Mattathias*, yet none ever had the impudence or ignorance to call any of these Antimoses or *Antichrists* for they were all excellent Saints.

4. At that same time when St. *Paul* wrote this Epistle to the Thessalonians, the pagan Emperour of Rome the vilest Monster of Mankind did most proudly and tyrannically exalt himself above, and oppose all the kings and princes of the Earth, and deposed, persecuted and murdered all good Bishops and priests at his lawlesse pleasure, and therefore St. *Paul* must prophesy of another sort of lawlesse opposer and exalter of himself against and above all that is called God and all wayes of worship. Now no other Inpositor in the world ever made himself a greater prophet than *Moses* or *Christ*, or broached a new religion in contempt and defiance of all other religions, but *Mahomet* only.

5. If the Popes proud exalting himself above all Emperours and Kings does formally of it self denominate and render him the grand *Antichrist* then *Gregory*. 7, alias *Pope Hildebrand* must be the first *Antichrist*, although there were above 90 Popes of Rome before him from *Boniface* the third, and before this *Boniface* there were above 60 Bishops of Rome.

For this *Pope Hildebrand* was the first Pope, that challenged temporal supremacy over all princes and kings in Christendome about an : 1073. but surely *Antichrist* was come many hundred yeares before, because the Roman Empire, was fallen long before that time, yea and had suffered a double translation, first from Italy to Greece, secondly from Greece to Germany,

Neither can this text be applyed to the Popes exalting himself above all Bishops and Priests in the Church, for Priests are not called Gods in Scripture as Kings are, therefore *Gregory* the great his calling the Patriarch of *Constantinople* the forerunner of *Antichrist* for assuming the title of Universal Bishop, must be taken with a grain of Salt; for doubtlesse 'twas farre from the intentions of that good Emperour *Mauritius* to set up *Antichrist*, doubtlesse 'twas far from the thoughts of that holy Patriarch *John Jejunator* (so called for his frequent fasting) to destroy Christianity or to ruine the Church.

Therefore upon serious consideration, I believe that *Gregory* the Great either spake passionately, out of self interest and indignation, that the late upstart Bishop of *Constantinople* should overtop the ancient Bishop of

Rome, or he spake *Prophetically*, for it may be inferred from *Gregorius* calling him *the for-runner of Antichrist*, that twas his, and the Churches belief in those dayes, that *Antichrist* was not then come, but yet shortly expected. And so it came to passe, for in the Reign of *Heraclius*, the successeur of *Phocas*, the successeur of *Mauritius*, about 30 years after *Gregory*, the *Antichrist*, i.e. *Mahomet* appeared. But this is undoubted truth which *Gregory* spake, that the title of *Universal Bishop* favoured too much of *Luciferian* pride and arrogance, and that none of his predecessors at *Rome* ever usurped it before. For twas an innovation in Church Government, and a meer temporal donation of the Emperour. *Mauritius* gave it first to the Patriarch of *Constantinople*, the next Emperour *Phocas* gave it to the Bishop of *Rome*. You will now demand, whose right it was? I answer, it can't be proved by the word of God to be the right of either: yea Christ sharply reproves his disciples for striving who should be the greatest among them. But this I say, that the Pope of *Rome* has had more wit and better luck to keep what he had gotten, then the Patriarch of *Constantinople*, and by the donations of some Emperours and other great Friends, and by his crafty politick taking advantages of the neglects and weakness of other Emperours, the Pope is now become the richest, and most Potent of all Bishops in Christendome, so that the Popes temporal and ecclesiastical supremacy ought not to be accounted any matter of Conscience, or piece of religion, but only a thing of Fortune and Favour in this world, and tis held only by Policy and Power. And as long as the King of *England* holds the sword in his own hand, he need not fear that he shall be guilty of transgressing any one of Gods Laws by keeping the Pope out of *England*: For the Pope was not made universall Bishop over the Church of Christ, till about ten years after *Gregory the Great*, sent *St. Austin* to convert the *English*. anno 595.

And the first time the Pope usurped the temporall Lordship of *Rome*, was, when the *Exarchate of Ravenna* was wholly overthrowen by the *Lombards*. For then the *Constantinopolitan* Emperour had no Governours left in *Italy*, but Bishops only.

Afterwards Pope *Gregory 2* proved a downright rebell against the Emperour *Leo Isaurus*, for the Pope excommunicated him out of the Church, and forbad the *Italians* to yield any homage, allegiance, or tribute to him, because he suppressed Images and *Saint-worship* in the East.

Afterward Pope *Adrian* the first sets up a new Emperour of the VVest, *Charles M.* who with his Father King *Pipin*, and his Grandfather *Charles Martel*, having conquered the *Lombards* in *Italy*, gave all the  
Lands

Lands of the exarchate of *Ravenna, Urbine, Ancona, Spoleto &c.* to the *Bishoprick of Rome*. The Countesse *Matilda* added *Ferrara* and other Lordships. And doubtlesse *Constantine M.* and many other good Christians did long before give large gifts and revenues to the *Bishops of Rome*, for that State and Glory they lived in, and those vast charges and expenses they were at, in sending and receiving Embassies to and from all parts of Christendome, could not be maintained without great donations and possessions. When the *French* had thus raysed and promoted the *Pope* to great honour, riches and power, he stood in feare and awe of none but the Emperours of *Germany*; Out of their hands therefore they first Extorted the whole power of *Investitures*, then by subtle contrivances forced them at last to relinquish *Italy*, and afterwards, perceiving that their power and authority would grow stronger by the Emperours weaknes, they granted royall prerogatives to the tributary *Princes of Germany* to prevent all future insurrection of the Emperours against the insulting tyranny of *Papal Rome*. Then the *Popes* growing proud with their abundance of riches and honour they began to unbishop themselves, neglecting religion, and the care of souls, and to turn altogether *States-men* and *Politicians* and *Souldiers* for the advancement of their worldly wealth and pompe, and at last came to that insolence and impudence as to trample upon crownes and Scepters, to insult over all Emperours and Kings, the works of the imperious whorish woman of *Babylon*. Thus not vindicating in the least measure the popes wickedness, we have laid the grand *Antichristianisme* at *Mahomets* dore, and there are reasons enough and enough for our casting off the *Pope*, without making him the grand *Antichrist*.

2. *Antichrist* is described 2 *Thes.* 2. 4. *Sitting in the temple of God, as God, shewing himself that he is God.* Indeed those *Pagan Emperours Caligula* and *Dioclesian* clad themselves in such majestick glorious habits of the heathens Gods, and their images were set up in the temples to be adored as Gods, but this was before the time of *Antichrists* appearing, for the *Roman empire* was most potent and flourishing in *Dioclesiens* reigne. and to sit as God, is not to be worshipped, but to act like the prince of *Tyrus*, *Ezek.* 2, 3. *because thy heart is lifted up, and thou hast said I am God, I sit in the seat of God, yet thou art a man and not god, though thou hast set thine heart, as the heart of God, behold thou art wiser than Daniel &c.*

Thus *Mahomet* thought himself as wise as God, of greater knowledge and understanding than any man, for he pretended to have invented a better way of divine worship, wiser laws, and a more excellent religion, than

than *Moses* or *Christ* prescribed. Or as the *prince of Tyrus* thought himself invincible, so *Mahomet* thought himself as strong, was as bold, courageous, and fearless of any harm or Enemies, as if he had been *God almighty*, for he undertook to oppose all men of all religions on earth, both *Heathens, Jewes and Christians*. In short he promulged his *Alcoran* with as much confidence and commanding authority, as if the mouth of the Lord had spoken it, and that not privately in by-corners, but publickly in the open temples that were consecrated to the *God of Christians*. In short, he pretended to be sent by God, and invested with the authority of God, as *Moses and Christ* indeed were; and as *Christ* and his apostles preached the Gospel in the Temple of the Jews and heathens, so *Mahomet* turns the Christian churches into Mosques, and therein teaches and celebrates another religion contrary to *Christs*, as in all places of his conquest is visible.

Tis observable that the first four monarchies of the earth, were erected out of the church, by heathens, in Idolatrous places, but the grand *Antichristian* monarchy was to be set up in the church i. e. in the midst of Christians. And I know some from these words infer that *Antichrist* must be an *Apostate Christian*; tis certain *Mahometers father* was an heathen, and his mother a Jew, and *Mahomet* was neither *Circumcised* in his infancy, till by *Abdalla the Jew*, nor baptized, till by *Sergius the Monk*, a little before the publishing of his *Alcoran*, yet some Historians say he was a *Gnostick Christian*, and that he was well versed in the Scripture appears by his frequent quotations and contradictions thereof, and the *Saracens* ( who received the Christian faith in the reign of the Emperor *Valens* ) were the first revolters to and chiefe promoters of *Mahometanism*.

But I cannot see any reason from *Pauls* words to beleive that *Antichrist* himself should be an *Apostate Christian*, but that there should be an Apostacy before or upon his coming, and that he should reside and reign in Christian places, and should teach his wicked Doctrine in the very Temples of God as the *Mahometans* do in the Greek and the other Eastern churches, and that he should make a shew as if he had the Authority of God, by pretending to be the *Supream Lawgiver* and worship-orderer of the whole world.

3. Tis prophesied, that *Antichrists* coming should be with great power and lying wonders, Now all know, that *Mahomet* made way for his religion, not by convincing reason, or power of the Spirit, but by the power of the sword and mighty armies, and though he never pretended to divine miracles, as *Moses and Christ*, yet he used many cunning

ning tricks and juggling delusions, for having by his drunkenness and whoring brought upon himself most grievous Epileptick fits, to excuse the infamy thereof, he told his wife, that the *Angel Gabriel* appeared to him in such majesty, as cast him into that conternation and foaming.

He had also trained up a *young Pidgeon* to pick Pease out of his ear, which when he published his *Alcoran*, he pretended was the *Holy Ghost* sent from Heaven to reveal the mind and will of God to him. About this *Pidgeons neck* he hanged a piece with this inscription in golden letters, *he that can put a Yoke on the Bulls neck, let him be King*. The Bull which *Mahomet* had tamed long before, hearing his Masters voice presently rushes in amongst the People with the *Alcoran* about his horns, and layes his Head in his Masters lap quietly, to be yoked by him, which the ignorant people admiring, forthwith proclaimed him *King* and Gods greatest Prophet, above *Moses* and *Christ*.

And after his death his body was placed in an *iron chest* at *Mecca*, which was drawn up to the top of the vault, and still hangs as it were in the Air by virtue of a great Loadstone placed in the top or rooffe of the *Fabrick* by Art, on purpose to delude vulgar apprehensions.

He is the *grand Antichrist*, that has done the greatest mischief to *Christs Church* and Religion. And the greatest blow and wound that ever Christendom received from any Sect of men, was from the *Sword* and *Alchoran* of *Mahomet*, for his Religion and Armies have over-run almost all *Asia* and *Africa* and a great part of *Europe*, and that which is most to be lamented, is, that all those famous places of *Christs Birth*, *Life* and *Death*, *Jerusalem* and all *Judea*, yea all those renowned Churches to whom the Apostles dedicated all their Epistles, as *Corinth*, *Galatia*, *Ephesus*, *Philippi*, *Colosse*, *Crete*, *Theffalonica*, &c. (except the Church of *Rome*) are all slaves and Apostates to *Mahomet*, yea all *Egypt*, *Affyria*, *Persia*, *India*, *Arabia*, *Barbary*, *Greece*, &c. are now under the Antichristian yoke.

And what though Mahometans commend *Christ* as a good man and true Prophet, yet *Mahomet* is extolled as a better and greater Prophet; what though Christianity be tollerated, connived at among them, yet 'tis despised as an inferiour subordinate and worser Religion than *Mahomets*, and is in all places of their Conquests thrust out of the chief and best Temples of God.

As for that common opinion that *Idolatry* is a necessary ingredient of the *grand Antichristianisme*, we have proved already, that the Jews and Mahometans are formally Antichrists and yet they abhorre all appearance of *Idolatry*. And secondly, the grand Antichrist must be a worse-  
and

and wickeder opposer of Christ, than those Idolatrous Heathens in the Apostles dayes. Therefore those that maintain that the Pope is the grand Antichrist, must also maintain that the Pope (though a Christian) is of a more contrary Religion to Christ than Mahomet: and that the Papiſts are worse Idolaters than the Heathens that sacrificed to *Venus*, *Bacchus* or *Apollo*; and that the Papiſts who will dye for Christ, are worse than the Jews who killed Christ. But surely Religion (though mingled with some corruptions) is better than no Religion, and those that worship Christ (though in an erroneous way) are better than those, that do not worship Christ at all. However the reformers of the *Church of England* have thorowly to the utmost of their knowledge and power, abolished all the errours and corruptions of the Church of *Rome*; And therefore are no wayes lyable to the charge of *Antichristianisme* ( As God willing shall be shewed shortly in my defence of the renownd *Cranmer.* )

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*FINIS.*

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